Employment for war widows in Government departments

163. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the War Widows and Widows of Defence Forces of India Guild has recently urged Government to provide employment to them in the Government and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Press Reports to this effect have been seen.

(b) and (c) Dependents i.e. widow/son/daughter near relative of Defence personnel who die in harness are eligible to suitable Group 'C' or Group 'D' civil appointments, on compassionate grounds, without registration in the employment exchanges subject to fulfilment of certain eligibility conditions. In addition, upto two members each of the families of Defence personnel killed in action are given priority II-A for employment through employment exchanges| Directorate General Employment and Training (DGE&T) in Group 'C' and 'D' posts. Further, out of the total reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' posts for ex-servicemen in Public Sector Undertaking 4½ per cent vacancies are earmarked for dependents, including widows.

Import and production of edible oil

164. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import edible oil for distribution under PDS;

(b) if so, the quantum of edible oil to be imported and justification for the import of edible oil; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to increase the production of edible oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Edible Oil is imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply of indigenous oil in the country. As such the quantity of oil to be imported largely depends on production on edible oil-seeds. Determining the quantity of import is, thus, a subject of constant review depending on the factors like availability of indigenous oils, prices thereof and BOP position etc. On the basis of the present indication, Government has recently decided to import 1 lakh tonne of edible oil.

(c) In order to increase the production of edible oil-seeds, two Central Sponsored Schemes, the National Oilseeds Development Project on the basis of Centre-State assistance of 50:50 and the Oilseeds production Thrust Project with 100 per cent Central assistance are in production in the major oilseeds growing States. Besides Technology Mission on Oilseeds is working excluively for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country.

Planning process at the District Level

165. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the commencement of Planning Process at the District level, as was sought to we implemented by the previous Government to make the basis of Five Year Plans realistic, has been found to be unacceptable to present Government; and

(b) if so, what would be the basis of formulating Plans by the present Government; and

(c) by when the 8th Five Year Plan would be ready for implementation?